## Sustainable INL News

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

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## **Earth Day**

arth Day probably conjures up different feelings for different people, but the underlying meaning has remained the same for over 40 years. The first Earth Day was celebrated by millions of Americans on April 22, 1970. The late Senator Gaylord Nelson was the founder of the event.

Forty years later, nearly a half billion people from across the globe will commemorate Earth Day, with this year's "Billion Acts of Green" theme. Idaho Falls will join the world in celebration this year on Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Tautphaus Park Zoo and Hockey Shelter.

INL has been an organizing sponsor of the Idaho Falls Earth Day Celebration since its inception in the 1990's. INL supports this important community event in several ways: 1) direct donations to help put on the event, 2) employees donate their time to organize and participate in the event, 3) employees share valuable information on current

research and improvements INL has made to help reduce our impact on the environment, and 4) the iSTEM program has recently awarded a grant to help fund educational activities in local schools centered around Earth Day principles.

This year the Idaho Falls Earth Day Celebration will continue to include



The buses showcase our commitment to alternative fuels and reductions of carbon emissions.

New this year is an expired medication drop and

"It was on that day that Americans made it clear that they understood and were deeply concerned over the deterioration of our environment and the mindless dissipation of our resources."

- Gaylord Nelson, 1970

conservation and educational booths and displays, arts and crafts projects for kids using recycled/reused materials, recycle row, a raffle, a skateboard competition, a bike rodeo, free secure bike parking, and free zoo admission for kids 12 and under with paying adult and either a can for donation to the Idaho Food Bank or one item to be recycled. One of the biggest draws is always the INL bus(es).

recycled material fashion show. If you would like to participate or volunteer at the event, please contact Kim Frerichs (526-7174). For additional information on the event visit the website

(www.ifearthday.com).

Last year's event was attended by approximately 6,000 people. The expanding participation and attendance to the event shows the ever-growing appreciation and concern

the local community has for the environment.

At a more national level, through the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP), the Federal Government has adopted the theme, "Act Now; Together We Can Create a Greener Future." While awareness is good, action is better. The Earth Day 2011 theme highlights how Federal employees are building on momentum, going above and beyond what is asked of them, and taking action to reduce fossil fuel use, lower carbon emissions, and save money for American taxpayers.

To find out ways you can act too, visit the website:
(www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/earthday.html)

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